

A  
 REVIEW  
 OF THE  
 STATE  
 OF THE  
 BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, October 19. 1758.

**H**AVING in my last took the Liberty to enquire a little into the present State of the Emperor's Affairs, with Respect to the rest of the Princes of Europe, with whom he is now at War; it becomes necessary a little to discourse of him and his Affairs, as they respect those Princes, with whom his Imperial Majesty is in Alliance and Confederacy; and as in the first Article of this it seems very strange and something absurd, to see a Prince making Incroachments, reviving old

Claims, pursuing Neighbour-Princes, embroiling himself in new Broils, Wars and Expences on one side, who is trampled upon, insulted, and many Ways dishonour'd and made contemptible on the other; so on the other side it may not be amiss to enquire, how far this may concern the Princes or States in Alliance with him.

A little Policy is requir'd indeed, to see the Incongruity of pushing on Conquest on one side, and sinking under the Insults of meaner Powers on

on the other; even the King of *France*, whose Example in few things is so far to be recommended as in this, when his Ambition led him to grasp at the Dominion of *Europe*, and exorbitant Power became his Darling Sin; yet he never attempted foreign States, he never began his foreign Encroachments, he never extended his Eruptions beyond his own Dominions, but with all the Cautions and prudent Managements imaginable for the Defence of his own, that was possible to be exerted; how do we see his Dominions fenced with innumerable strong Towns—like a Wall of Brass surrounding his Territories, and in some Places doubled and trebled like Out-works to one another—Thorough which there is no passing but in the Face of Terror and Death, a too pregnant Instance of which we have had in the Siege of *Lisle*, and this before, or as fast as he invaded any of his Neighbours.

But to be insulted on one side for Want of Men, on another side for Want of Money, and on a third side for Want of Council, and yet at the same time on the fourth side employ the chief Strength and Power of the whole to push on private Conquests, and pursue particulars Interests, pick Quarrels with new People, on new and remote Occasions—And make new Enemies, the old Ones being too powerful for him to withstand; this is a Thing, the Witchcraft of which is past most Men's Understanding.

But to leave the Folly of it—

What shall we say to it, if we should be ask'd, how far the Confederates of such a Prince are concern'd in it? —How far they are oblig'd to consent to it—And how far concern'd to joyn it? The great and bloody War we are now concern'd in against *France*, was begun, as is frequently mention'd, in the respective Declarations on every side, for general Liberty, to rescue *Europe* from the Chains of *France*, and to secure the general Tranquillity, by reducing Power to a Ballance— I would be very glad to hear, what Concern it is of to any of these Ends, and how much it conduces to it— That the Fiefs of the Empire in *Ferrara*, and *Modena*, or *Parma*, or the *Mantuan* be recover'd from the Pope, and other Princes concern'd in them, why the Confederates should concern themselves in this private Breach, and be at Charge to support the Pretensions of the Emperor one way or other?

There are three great Wars in *Europe* which at this time harrass it, with Fire and Blood, almost from one End to the other, I mean, that of the *Swede* and the *Muscovite*, that of the Emperor of *Germany* and the *Hungarians*, and that of the *French* and the Confederates. —The First is a Quarrel about the Crown of *Poland*, Personal Invasions, and a Variety of pretended Piques and Causes, not much worth naming, and far less worth fighting for—And all Men allow we have nothing



nothing to do with it, let them fight it out, till *England* comes to part them——Then there is the War between the Emperor and his Malecontent Subjects in *Hungary*—And *saving that* we would fain assist the Protestants by *Treaty only*, to obtain a good Peace and Liberty of their Religion; we have otherwise as little to do with that War—We do indeed feel the Injury of that War in *Hungary*, viz. In the Diversion of the Imperial Arms, and leaving the Empire naked on this side, where his Troops are sorely wanted, but that gives us no Title to meddle with the War——

As little Concern have we in the new Breach now upon the Wheel—But only as it will be a Diversion to the Imperial Forces, and take them off from pushing on the general Cause we are all involv'd in, and let the *French* again into *Italy*; and so I cannot but think, all the Powers of *Europe* so far from being concern'd in it, that they are concerned to prevent the Breach, by all the Ways possible and *lawful* in the World.

Again, should this Breach with the Pope go on——It would not be much amiss to examine among our fine *Coffee-House* Politicians, who are so fond of pulling down the Pope, what may rationally be suppos'd to be the Consequences of it; for my part, I am as willing to have the old Gentleman maul'd as any of you——Nor do I care a Farthing who does it, *French* or *Germans*,

*Spaniards* or *Italians*——Let it go on which side it will, I think, the old Father is out of his Element, and Troops of Horse are none of the Engines that are to support his Dignity—But two Things seem to me to argue strongly against our being one way or other concern'd in this Matter, and particularly makes us heartily desire this War not to break out at this time——And These are, 1. The Circumstances of the Empire; and, 2. The Circumstances of the Allies, as now embark'd in this War. I shall enter farther into Particulars in my next.

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